

## The GPA 2017-18 Application is Open!

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Dear Parents!

I hope this message finds you well. We send you greetings from overseas, where we are engaged in service projects and witnessing in Peru, Paraguay, the Philippines, and Costa Rica. I am now with GPA participants who are having an unforgettable experience at 12,000 ft above sea level, in the Andes of Peru. GPA has expanded the overseas program to include witnessing, and beautiful testimonies are now coming in. Please see a full report on our website: [www.generationpeaceacademy.org/2017/03/03/2820/](http://www.generationpeaceacademy.org/2017/03/03/2820/)

We would like to invite you to be a part of this exciting experience. GPA is now accepting applications for the upcoming program year 2017/18, and I would like to share a few thoughts with you, the parents of prospective participants.

GPA continues its commitment to invest in the future of our young Second Generation Unificationists.

What do we offer to our young Unificationists? In a nutshell, GPA's extensive activities guide participants to:

- strengthen their life of faith
- clarify their life goals
- build healthy lifelong relationships
- provide a foundation for the Blessing
- discover their unique calling to contribute to a more peaceful world

As your sons and daughters develop life goals and a sense of mission and purpose for their future, the formative years from 18-21 are crucial. It is widely acknowledged that a gap year program, either right after high school or as an interruption during the college years, is tremendously valuable for long-term fulfillment and productivity. The best colleges and universities in the US are increasingly recognizing the value of taking a "gap year" after high school, or as a break during one's college education.

(See this article from [Harvard University](#))

### How GPA makes a difference:

#### Developing Character:

GPA activities of fundraising, overseas volunteer service, witnessing, and outdoor adventure training are intentionally designed as effective learning environments to develop perseverance, empathy, compassion, communication skills, and other valuable qualities of character. A solid character and maturity of faith are proven to be crucial as a solid foundation for a successful Blessing.

### **Lifelong Friendships:**

One of the inevitable outcomes of going through life changing experiences together is the creation of strong bonds with other brothers and sisters, friends of faith, who share the same values and aspirations. GPA has become an extended community of staff members, participants and families growing together and committed to a common vision. This experience of a community of faith refreshes our hearts and brings a new sense of hope to our broader movement.

### **Spiritual Journey:**

GPA's main objective is to provide a culture conducive to developing a personal relationship with God and True Parents. Experienced teachers provide a solid and heartistic understanding of the Divine Principle during workshops throughout the year and all other activities become an opportunity for daily practice of the Principle and True Parents' teachings. This is a chance for participants to experience the root and purpose of our movement's traditions and to cultivate habits for continued growth in their life of faith long after GPA.

### **Now accepting applications!**

This spring, Generation Peace Academy is accepting [applications for the new program](#) year 2017/18. [Click here!](#)

We hope that you will encourage your son or daughter to apply. The application is free for Early Bird applicants. After April 21st there will be a \$70 application fee. If you or your son/daughter have any questions, please feel free to contact Jan Pearson ([jangpa@gmail.com](mailto:jangpa@gmail.com)), and we can put you in contact with staff, GPA alumni and other GPA families to help you think through this important decision.

The application form is easy to follow and complete. The form is safe to use as it is hosted by Formstack, a professional data company, and not on our web server. The data you submit will be fully encrypted.

Please check our website [www.generationpeaceacademy.com](http://www.generationpeaceacademy.com) to find testimonies of parents, participants, and alumni as well as the application page.

Feel free to contact us ([jangpa@gmail.com](mailto:jangpa@gmail.com)) with questions, concerns or feedback.

Thank you,

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Director of GPA